

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO MIKE PARMAN

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael J. Parman, who had a long and distinguished career as editor and publisher of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, the newspaper of record in Sonoma County.

Mike Parman died on July 1st after a long fight against pancreatic cancer. His rise to the top of the North Coast's publishing world was marked by grit, determination and independence. His tenure at the Press Democrat was marked by excellence and community involvement. And his final days marked by self-awareness, humor and grace.

Orphaned at 14, Mike raised himself in Reno, Nevada under the guardianship of two far-apart relatives. He attended Reno High School where he played basketball and was on the wrestling team. Inspired by his journalism teacher, Rex Daniels, he became a sports writer, and the school paper's sports editor, and wrote a weekly column for Reno's daily paper. Mike went on to the University of Nevada at Reno, where, while earning bachelors and master's degrees, he wrestled and boxed and worked as editor and sports editor of the campus paper, and continued to write for the Nevada State Journal.

In 1967, he married Michael McCulloch, the daughter of journalist Frank McCulloch and Jackie McCulloch, a marriage that lasted until his death and produced two children, Chris and Leah, who are now parents themselves.

After completing his master's degree in 1968, Parman was called to military duty. He served as an Army journalist and photographer in Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal.

In 1970 he was hired as a reporter by the Pioneer Press, a group of weekly newspapers on Chicago's North Shore. He quickly rose to managing editor and at the same time worked as a stringer for Money Magazine. In 1973 he headed west for California, and worked briefly as a copy editor of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat before being hired at the Sacramento Bee. Starting at the copy desk, he successively was promoted to executive sports editor, weekend editor, assistant managing editor, and finally managing editor.

When the New York Times acquired the then privately-owned Press Democrat in 1985, Mike saw an opportunity play a major role in remaking the paper. At the Press Democrat, Mike Parman, first as editor, then as publisher, oversaw several major graphic redesigns of the paper, the construction of a regional printing facility, and the winning of dozens of awards, including a Pulitzer for Photography and a Polk Award for a series of articles.

During his 20 years at the Press Democrat, Mike Parman not only improved the look of the paper and the quality of its journalism and expanded its circulation; he also became deeply involved in community affairs. Mike Parman served as the President of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, on the board of directors of the Sonoma County United Way and on the Advisory Board of the Green Music Center and the North Bay Council.

When Mike Parman retired for health reasons in December 2005, he did not give up his public voice. Instead, he took to the new media, and began writing an Internet "blog," which gave a very personal account of how he, his family and friends were dealing with his cancer. Mike's blog revealed a man facing mortality and the terrors of cancer with courage, compassion and good humor. Going on vacation, Mike wrote that his cancer was a thing that he chose to leave behind. While undergoing chemotherapy, he wrote that he anticipated speaking at a rally where "I will mop my sweating brow, gray hair will explode from my head and little children will run home screaming." And if he used medical marijuana, the rather straight laced Parman feared he would be "Thrown in jail and forced to wear paisley pajamas the rest of my life."

Mike Parman's blog brought heartfelt responses from dozens of cancer patients and survivors, because he not only expressed his own feelings, but hit a universal chord.

"We make every moment count," Mike Parman wrote. "We love deeper. We live deeper. We soar on hope and laughter. We appreciate everything and nothing is taken for granted."

Mr. Speaker, if only we could all live that way every day of our lives.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. RAMON AYALA

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ramon Ayala, one of the most accomplished norteño music legends, for his contribution as the headlining act at the Supply Our Students Concert on August 2nd, 2006.

Mr. Ayala was born on March 10th, 1945, and first began his love of norteño music at six years of age by playing the accordion in small Mexican towns. He then started his path to his success by forming the Los Relampagos Del Norte band in the 1960s that defined modern norteño music. He has performed over a hundred albums, each one completely distinctive in the musical style that is the trademark of Mr. Ayala.

Mr. Ayala also has received two Grammy awards for his music, and numerous other awards. He is known for his philanthropic in-

volvement in the community of South Texas with underprivileged children and children with disabilities. Mr. Ayala has raised thousands of dollars for school supplies in the previous Supply Our Students concerts, and I commend him for his dedication to the education of our children in the great State of Texas. He is a truly exceptional musician and a role model for aspiring musicians.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the exemplary career of Mr. Ramon Ayala and his involvement with the Supply Our Students concert in the City of Laredo on August 2nd, 2006, and I thank you for this time.

## CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Israel, our ally in the Middle East. I would like to thank Majority Leader BOEHNER and Chairman HYDE for their leadership in bringing this timely resolution to the floor.

Since its inception nearly sixty years ago, Israel has been engaged in a war for its survival. It has conducted that war according to every rule set out by the international community and has always acted with restraint when it comes to civilians. Israel's enemies have not only acted without restraint, they have deliberately targeted civilians in an effort to terrorize the nation.

Israel is now engaged in a new chapter of its war on terror. I fully support Israel's right to defend its citizens by using all means necessary to destroy terrorists and those that support them. However, we must also consider the root cause of today's violence. For nearly thirty years, the government of Iran has been monetarily and militarily supporting Hezbollah around the world. Evidence of Syrian and Iranian complicity in Hezbollah's abduction of two Israeli soldiers last week is abundant.

The scourge of terrorism will never go away until the state sponsors of terrorism have been dealt with decisively. Iran today remains the world's largest state sponsor of terror. Iran's president has repeatedly threatened to bring a rain of fire to Israel and the United States. Imagine what might happen if they get a nuclear weapon to back up those threats. The majority of the Iranian people oppose the theocratic dictators that rule their country. The time has come for the United States to actively support the Iranian people and help them bring about democratic change in their country.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.